

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1-15 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 6 are amended and claims 12-15 are added for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 1 and 6 are independent.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Cortjens et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,598,209). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify the claimed invention for the benefit of the Examiner. However, Applicant submits that this claim has been amended to merely explicitly state those features that were already implicitly claimed in claim 1. Accordingly, this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot.

Specifically, Applicant submits that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the unique combination of limitations of the claimed invention. With respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that the

prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the unique combination of limitations of the claimed invention, including the feature(s) of: “a data converter which detects a data format of a communication data outputted from the operation part, determines whether or not the data format of the communication data differs from a data format for the remote control pan head, converts the communication data outputted from the operation part including the control signal into a data format used in serial communication which conforms with the data format for the remote control pan head if it is determined that the data format of the communication data differs from the data format for the remote control pan head and transmits the converted communication data to the remote control pan head, and transmits the communication data to the remote control pan head without conversion if it is determined that the data format of the communication data does not differ from the data format for the remote control pan head.” Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

As recited, the data converter first determines whether or not the data format of the operation part differs from the data format of the remote control pan head. In other words, the data converter determines whether the data format from the operation part is compatible with the format of the remote control pan head.

If the data format from the operation part is not compatible, then the data converter makes the appropriate conversion to a conforming format and transmits the converted communication data to the remote control pan head. On the other hand, if the data is already compatible, then there is no need to convert and the data converter transmits the communication data as is to the remote control pan head.

Cortjens cannot be relied upon to teach or suggest this feature. Cortjens **always** converts the signals from the mouse or the joystick 18 into signals appropriate for the pan/tilt mechanism (Col. 6, lines 48-51). There is no determination made whatsoever as to whether the conversion is required in the first place. Therefore for at least this reason, claim 1 is distinguishable over Cortjens.

Applicant also has amended claim 6 to clarify the claimed invention for the benefit of the Examiner. Applicant submits that this claim has been amended to merely explicitly state those features that were already implicitly claimed. Accordingly, this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot.

Claim 6 recites, in part “a data converter which detects a data format of a communication data outputted from each of the operation parts, determines whether or not the data format of the communication data differs from a data format for the remote control pan head, converts the communication data outputted from the operation parts including the control signal into a data

format used in serial communication which conforms with the data format for the remote control pan head if it is determined that the data format of the communication data differs from the data format for the remote control pan head and transmits the converted communication data to the remote control pan head, and transmits the communication data to the remote control pan head without conversion if it is determined that the data format of the communication data does not differ from the data format for the remote control pan head.”

It has been clearly demonstrated above that Cortjens cannot be relied upon to teach or suggest at least this feature. Therefore, claim 6 is also distinguishable over Cortjens.

As to the dependent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional limitations provided by these claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly obvious over Cortjens. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner admits that the features of the claims are not disclosed. To allegedly correct for this deficiency of Cortjens, the Examiner merely takes Official Notice that such feature is well known.

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Applicant challenges the Official Notice and request that a valid reference be provided to support the Examiner's position.

New Claims

Claims 12-15 are added through this Reply. These claims depend from independent claims 1 or 6. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated with respect to the independent claims as well as on their own merits, the new claims are distinguishable over the cited references of record.

Applicant respectfully request that the new claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are deemed necessary with respect thereto.

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

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Applicant respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and § 1.17 for a one-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee is attached hereto.

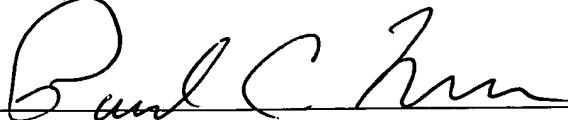
In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Hyung N. Sohn, Registration No. 44,346 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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